of Drug Abuse Prevention. In pursuance of this Agreement, the two Governments have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 'Cooperative Measures to Increase Awareness of and Support for Efforts to Combat Production, Distribution and Use of Illegal Drugs'. In terms of the Memorandum of Understanding, the two countries will carry out joint, cooperative, long-term programmes to raise awareness of and build support for anti-narcotics activities.

CANADA

The two Governments have signed an Extradition Treaty. The Treaty is designed to enhance the cooperation between the two countries in the suppression of crime by making provisions for the reciprocal extradition of offenders in order to effectively combat terrorism.

The two Government have also signed a "Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters" This Treaty is designed to improve the effectiveness of of both countries in the investigation, prosecution and suppression of crime, including crime related to terrorism and the tracing, restraint forfeiture or confiscation of the proceeds of crime, through cooperation and mutual assistance in criminal matters.

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

An agreement for mutual cooperation between Government of India and the Government of Arab Republic of Egypt on cooperation in combating illicit traffic in Narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances has been signed on 20.4.95.

UZBEKISTAN, TAJIKISTAN, KYRGHYZSTAN AND TURKMENISTAN

India have signed Declaratitn of Principles on relations with Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrghyzstan and Turkmenistan, which provide for cooperation in containing terrorism and traffic in narcotics.

Indo-China Agreement for opening of new border ptsts

3604. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been reached in the India-China expert group meeting with regard to the opening of more border posts, reduction of troops along the India-China border and for the indentification of Line of Actual Control;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and the follow-up steps being taken thereon;

(c) whether any date has been fixed for holding meetings at Foreign Secretaries level in regard to hold more talks on the border issue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) At the third meeting of the India-China Expert Group, held in New Delhi on March 2-4, 1995, both sides agreed that additional designated points for meetings between their border personnel would be established at Nathu La in the Sikkim Sector and a point to be agreed in the Middle Sector of the India-China Border areas. The two sides also exchange views on the reduction of military forces along their line of actual control (LAC) and continued discussions on the clarification of the LAC.

Discussion on these issues will be continued in the India-China Joint Working Group and the Expert Group.

(c) and (d) The next meeting of the ioint Working Group, which is headed at the level of Foreign Secretary, will be held in New Delhi at a mutually convenient date in 1995

Indo-US Bi-lateral relations

3605. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to establish better ties with the USA;

(b) whether the Foreign officials of both the countries had recently discussed bi-lateral ties between both the countries; and

(c) if so, the details of areas of mutual interest identified by both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) During Prime Minister,s visit to the US in May *1994, President Clinton and Prime Min*ister called for a new partnership between India and the United States and agreed to expand the pace and scope of high-level exchanges on the full range of political, economic, commercial, scientific, technological and social affairs.

(b) and (c) Foreign Policy Consultations between senior officials of Ministry of External Affairs and the US State Department were held in New Delhi on April 3-4, 1995 as part of the on-going process of expanding and deepening relations between India and the US. The State Department delegation was led by Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Mr. Peter Tarnoff and the Indian side was led by the Foreign Secretary. Discussions covered regional integration, including the European security architecture, APE, ASEAN, SAARC and the Indian Ocean Rim; multilateral issues such as UN reforms and Security Council expansion, peace keeping, UNGA issues and the NPT review conference, and regional issues such as the Middle East Peace Process, the Gulf, Central Asia, Afghanistan, North East Asia, South East Asia and South Asia.

Issues of bilateral interest also came up for discussion during Under Secretary Tarnoff's meetings with Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister and Principal Secretary to Prime Minister.

Setting the Indo-China borders issue

3606. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps had been initiated by Government to settle Indo-China border dispute;

(b) if so, the progress made so far;

(c) what is the present situation;

(d) when the next Indo-China talks proposed to discuss this issue; and

(e) the details of any other alternative steps proposed to be taken to settle Indo-China border dispute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *(SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (e)* The India-China Joint Working Group (JWG), established during the visit of the former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi to China in December 1988, was tasked to create a favourable climate and conditions for a fair and reasonable settlement of the boundary question, while seeking a mutually acceptable solution to this question.

Discussions in the JWG resulted in the Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control in the India-*China Border Areas, which was signed* during Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao's visit to China in September 1993. Implementation measures for this Agreement are being discussed in the JWG and the India-China Expert Group.

The boundary question was addressed at the seventh meeting of the JWG, held in Beijing on July 6-7, 1994. The next meeting is scheduled to be held in New Delhi at a mutually convenient date later this year. India and China are committed to continue to work towards a resolution of the boundary question in the JWG. In the meantime, they are also taking steps to ensure that the situation along their border areas remains peaceful.